

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 SAJ-01 NIC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SCI-06 NASA-04 FCC-03

COME-00 EB-11 OTPE-00 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /152 W

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R 180248Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2364

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 0332

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ETEL, TW, CH AS

SUBJ: CHIREP IN INTELSAT

REF: CANBERRA 0202

1. ON JANUARY 17, EMBOFF RAISED SUBJECT AGAIN WITH ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY ALAN BROWN IN DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. BROWN REITERATED STATEMENTS MADE BY DFA SECRETARY RENOUF REPORTED REFTEL AND STATED SITUATION HAS NOT CHANGED AS FAR AS HE IS AWARE. IN THIS CONNECTION, BROWN NATED HE WAS SPEAKING FOR DFA IN ITS CAPACITY AS USUAL CONTACT ON SUCH SUBJECTS WITH THE EMBASSY.

2. BROWN STRONGLY IMPLIED THAT IF SUBJECT WERE RAISED AT THE POLITICAL LEVEL , I.E. , MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OR PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, THAT QUESTION MIGHT ELICIT AUSTRALIAN INITIATIVE WHERE NO SUCH INTENTION APPLIES AT THE PRESENT. AT THIS POINT. EMBOFF NOTED EMBASSY CONTENT WITH BROWN'S RESPONSE AND WOULD REPORT IT TO WASHINGTON.

3. IN COURSE OF CONVERSATION, BROWN OPINED THAT SUBJECT OF CHINESE REPRESENTATION AT THIS FIRST MEETING OF INTELSAT COUNTRIES WAS LIKELY TO COME UP IN ANY CASE.

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IF THIS SHOULD OCCUR, BROWN NOTED THAT AUSTRALIA'S

ATTITUDE WAS PREDICTABLE, I.E., GOA WOULD SUPPORT PRC OVER ROC AS MEMBER OF THIS ORGANIZATION. IN THIS CONTEXT, BORWN STATED FACT THAT GOA NO LONGER MAINTAINS DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ROC, ALTHOUGH LEVEL OF AUSTRALIAN TRADE WITH TAIPEI IS ABOUT THE SAME AS BEFORE AUSTRALIAN RECOGNITION WAS WITHDRAWN.

4. COMMENT: UNLESS THERE ARE OVERRIDING CONSIDERATIONS FOR DOING SO, EMBASSY SUGGESTS WE LET MATTER REST WHERE IT APPARENTLY IS AT PRESENT. FURTHER INQUIRIES ON OUR PART ARE LIABLE TO INVOKE POLITICAL CONSIDERATION AND BE SEEN AS AN ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR GOA TO SHOW ITS INITIATIVE AND INDEPENDENCE OF USG IN FOREIGN POLICY MATTERS. WHILE IT IS POSSIBLE THAT MINISTERIAL ATTENTION WILL BE DIRECTED SOMEHOW TO QUESTION OF CHINESE REPRESENTATION AT FORTHCOMING INTELSAT MEETING, IT WOULD APPEAR FROM CONVERSATIONS WITH RENOUF AND BROWN THAT SUCH ATTENTION IS UNLIKELY TO BE RESULT OF RECOMMENDATION BY DFA. END COMMENT.
HARROP

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NNN

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